

Chapter 6: Resounding Change

- The paramilitary framework established by white Democratic leaders before the election ran the city in the days immediately following the violence and coup.
- Transfer of control over city affairs from the Fusion administration to the Democrats began on November 10. New municipal officers had instruction from Democratic Party leadership regarding military affairs, banishment, and political patronage.
- Leading African Americans and white Republicans were banished from the city starting on the afternoon of the tenth. Some men were arrested, jailed, and sent out of town the next morning. Others were picked up and escorted to the train station on the eleventh.
- Besides the primary target of Alex Manly, the men selected for banishment fit into one of three categories: African American leaders who were open opponents to white supremacy, successful African American businessmen, and white Republicans or Populists who benefited from African American voting support.
- Other banishment targets were pressed into leaving town for their own safety by groups of whites considered to be rogues in the minds of leaders. Families continued to leave the city voluntarily over the following days and weeks.
- Tallies of the dead began almost immediately with many of the victims named in the newspapers. Other dead went unidentified, and some died after the initial violence on the tenth in random skirmishes or from severe wounds. The day after the riot, men found wounded in Wilmington and its outskirts were taken to the hospital.
- No official count of dead can be ascertained due to a paucity of records from the coroner's office, hospital, and churches.
- White Fusionists throughout the state were affected by the riot and violence. U. S. senator Marion Butler and Governor Daniel Russell experienced personal threats.
- Alfred Moore Waddell and the new board of Aldermen met almost daily to secure the coup and ensure the changeover from a Fusionist, biracial government to one composed of all whites. Waddell's administration sought to end the sporadic shootings and non-sanctioned banishments as well as to return the city to normal, peaceful, operations as quickly as possible.
- One of the changes wrought by the Democrats was the firing of all black municipal employees. Among the first replaced were the policemen and firemen. Two of the fire stations had been all black and were sources of pride for their neighborhoods. Those men were fired and replaced by whites and one firehouse was permanently closed, reducing the effectiveness of fire department response in majority black neighborhoods.
- White Democrats held celebratory parades and gatherings in Wilmington and Raleigh following the election and violence. White ministers on the Sunday following the violence voiced support for the coup and congratulated the leaders.